

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 01078 071314Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7406

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 1078

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNGA, US, BY
SUBJECT: 33RD UNGA BILATERALS

REF: A STATE 220330, B BUJUMBURA 1048

1. FONMIN HAS INFORMED US HE WILL BE IN U.S. FROM SEPTEMBER 20 - OCTOBER 6 TO ATTEND UNGA. BELIEVE DEPARTMENT HAS SUFFICIENT BIO DATA ON MUGANGA.

2. WE SUSPECT MUGANGA WILL RAISE GRB DESIRE THAT THE U.S. PROVIDE GREATER ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI. BELIEVE DEPARTMENT REPS SHOULD SAY U.S. ASSISTANCE BASED ON PROJECTS RATHER THAN GLOBAL SUMS. THERE EVERY POSSIBILITY OUR ASSISTANCE WILL RISE TO SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT ONCE WE HAVE IDENTIFIED AND DESIGNED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THIS PROCESS ALREADY UNDERWAY. FIRST PROJECT (PEAT DEVELOPMENT) HAS BEEN SIGNED, AND TEAMS HAVE BEEN IN BURUNDI OR SOON WILL BE TO DESIGN ADDITIONAL PROJECTS. WE REALIZE U.S. AID LEVEL IS MODEST AT MOMENT, BUT FUTURE OF PROGRAM DEPENDS UPON OUR ABILITY TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE WORKING RELATIONS WITH EACH OTHER.

3. MUGANGA HAS ALSO INFORMED ME HE WANTS TO DISCUSS AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLOITATION OF BURUNDI'S NICKEL DEPOSITS. THE RALPH PARSONS PGGFEASIBILITY STUDY FINANCED BY UNDP HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN DRAFT AND CLEARED BY GRB AND UNDP BURUNDI. IT WILL NOT, HOWEVER, BE PUBLISHED PRIOR TO MUGANGA'S VISIT. WE PRESUME HE WILL BE TAKING DRAFT
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EDITION WITH HIM.

4. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH UNDP EXPERTS WE LEARNED PARSONS STUDY CONCLUDES IT WORTHWHILE INVEST SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS IN COMPLETE FEASIBILITY STUDY BUT WITH CONSIDERABLE LIMITATIONS ON SCOPE OF PROJECT. IN ADDITION, WE UNDERSTAND IT DOES NOT RESOLVE MAJOR PROBLEMS OF INFRASTRUCTURE, POWER SUPPLY OR NEED TO BUILD 120

KILOMETERS OF RAILROAD TO KIGOMA TO TAKE OUT THE ORE.

5. THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN USEFULLY SAY TO MUGANGA AT THIS POINT, AND WE BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD TELL HIM THAT WE WILL BE INTERESTED IN SEEING THE FINAL DOCUMENT. IT CAN BE DISTRIBUTED TO POTENTIAL U.S. INVESTORS VIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY PROCEDURES. WE THINK MUGANGA SHOULD ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO HAVE HIS COMMERCIAL PEOPLE BRING THE REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE ATTENTION OF INVESTORS WHO HAVE SHOWN AN INTEREST IN THE PROJECT IN THE PAST. FYI: MUGANGA IS MAKING A SIMILAR APPROACH TO THE FRG.

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Message Attributes

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